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In der Pampa. Argentinische Skizzen. Von Erwin von Hase.

181 pp. C. A. Schwetschke and Son, Berlin, 1906. (Price, M. 3.)

Sketches of life on the Argentine pampa by a young man who has lived among its ranches and gauchos. He describes in lively style these wide stretching plains and their inhabitants, the taming of practically wild horses, the routine of work on the ranches, the counting and shearing of sheep, hunting exploits, exercises with the lasso and bola, and many other aspects. It is a readable book, giving many phases of a kind of life that is unfamiliar to most of us.

The International Position of Japan as a Great Power. By Seiji G. Hishida.

289 pp., Appendix. The Columbia University Press, New York, The Macmillan Company, Agents, New York, 1905.

This careful study makes a volume in the series of "Studies in History, Economics, and Public Law," edited by the Faculty of Political Science of Columbia University. The book is the result of investigations begun by the author immediately after the Treaty of Portsmouth. They relate to the international position of his country, Japan, as one of the Great Powers and to the conflict of interests and policies in the Far East. He gives the fullest account that has yet appeared in English of the past and present relations of Japan with the Asiatic countries and the nations of the Occident. The interest of the work is increased by the fact that the author is a native of Japan and there is no admixture of European predilections and prejudices in his discussion of the Far Eastern question. He says that it is the desire of Japan to preserve in the Orient the national status of those of her sister Asiatic nations which have not been subjugated by foreign powers and to lead them to that light of Western civilization which Japan is now enjoying without any abandonment of her national individualism.

Die Reiseberichte über Sibirien von Herberstein bis Ides. Von Dr. Georg Henning.

iv and 150 pp. C. G. Naumann, Leipzig, 1906.

A careful summary of the beginning and progress of our knowledge of Siberia up to the initial efforts towards the scientific exploration of that region under the auspices of Peter the Great. Until his reign, all reports of the nature of Siberia and its people were fragmentary, colourless, and usually inaccurate. Peter the Great was the first to require that all diplomatic and other agents of Russia who were sent into Asiatic lands should endeavour accurately to describe the countries and the peoples with whom they came in contact. The reports of these missions were printed in the Russian language, and through them important progress in the knowledge of Siberia was made. This ruler will also be remembered as the first monarch of Russia to introduce geodetic surveys in his Empire and to advance more exact knowledge of its geography, natural history, and ethnography.

The first section of Dr. Henning's work is a summary of the casual reports and rumours concerning Siberia that were current in Europe before the seventeenth century. The second section deals with the written records of journeys, all very inadequate before Peter the Great sent his missions into Asia; and also with the fairly adequate reports of his agents which were the forerunners of scientific exploration in the eighteenth century. The third part treats of the progress of information concerning the population of Siberia to the time that Ides was despatched on his great journey to China; and the monograph concludes with a sketch of the development of cartography and of knowledge of the coasts, surface forms and hydrography of Siberia.